

**Health Insurance Exchange Planning Grant -- Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes -- February 23, 2011**

Members Present: Jeannette DeJesús, CT Department of Public Health (DPH); Tia Cintron, CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Janice Perkins, for Michelle Zettergren, ConnectiCare; Susan Tully Abdo, Aetna; Margaret Flinter, Community Health Center, Inc.; Paul Lombardo, Connecticut Insurance Department (CID); Mary Ellen Breault, CID; Stan McMillen, CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Jim Augur, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; Tony Rescigno, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce; Olga Armah, for Kimberly Martone, DPH; Steve Casey, CT Department of Information Technology (DOIT); Evelyn Barnum, Community Health Center Association of Connecticut.

Members Absent: Stephen Frayne, Connecticut Hospital Association; Ken Ferrucci, Connecticut State Medical Society; Phil Boyle, HCG Services; Michael Starkowski, Department of Social Services (DSS); Mark Schaefer, DSS; Louis Polzella, DSS; Bob Dakers, OPM; Brian O'Connor.

Planning Grant Staff Present: David Guttchen, OPM; Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM; Alexis Fedorjaczenko, DPH/OPM.

The meeting of the Health Insurance Planning Grant Committee was called to order at 9 a.m.

1. Introductions

- a. Jeannette DeJesús, Special Advisor to the Governor on Health Care Reform, introduced Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman.

Lt. Governor Wyman welcomed the group and offered her support in addressing all aspects of health care reform. She highlighted the importance of accessing all available federal funding to support the state's efforts.

- b. Jeannette DeJesús introduced the Exchange team.

- Jeannette DeJesús is the special advisor to the governor on health care reform and also serves as a deputy commissioner at the Department of Public Health.
- Tia Cintron is the project manager leading the Exchange Planning Grant out of the OPM.
- Alexis Fedorjaczenko is a health care analyst supporting both the Planning Grant and Jeannette DeJesús' health care reform work.
- David Guttchen, director of the Health and Human Services Unit, and Barbara Parks Wolf, planning specialist, both at OPM, provide assistance with the Planning Grant.

- c. Jeannette DeJesús described the role of the Planning Committee.

The purpose of the Planning Committee is to advise and comment on the development of the Exchange. The group should help foster an open and inclusive process by connecting the Planning Grant with the broader constituency affected by health care reform and the Exchange.

2. Legislative Update

- a. David Guttchen provided an update on legislative activity related to the Exchange.

Two Exchange bills have been drafted, SB 921 by the Administration and HB 6323 by the Speaker of the House. The bills are similar in that each establishes a quasi-state entity for

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governance structure, but they differ in makeup of the Board of Directors. Both bills are in the Insurance and Real Estate committee, which has a JF deadline of March 17. The Public Health Committee has raised the concept but has not reported a bill.

David highlighted the importance of passing a bill this session, as doing so is a requirement of receiving further multi-year federal funding for the Exchange. He also noted that while both bills establish a governance structure for the Exchange, they refrain from making policy decisions because (1) federal guidance on the Exchanges is not yet complete, and (2) the Planning Grant will inform those decisions.

3. Update on Exchange Activity

- a.** Tia Cintron provided an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

The RFP was released February 1. Many questions have been received and a complete set answers will be posted today (2/23) on the OPM website, including the names of companies that submitted optional letters of intent. Due to the quantity of questions and answers, there will be a one day extension for submission of final applications -- they will be due on March 2.

The RFP review team has been selected and includes representatives from OPM, CID, and DSS, as well as a member from the UCONN Health Center. Proposals will be reviewed in March, contract negotiations will occur in April, and vendor work is anticipated to begin in May. Part of the discussion with vendors will include interim reporting deadlines for RFP deliverables throughout the summer.

- b.** Jeannette DeJesús provided an update on the Early Innovator Grant.

Last fall, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced competitive funding opportunities for States to design and implement the IT infrastructure needed to operate Health Insurance Exchanges. Connecticut is part of a consortium of six New England states that have been awarded funding to develop a state-of-the-art, online gateway to health insurance options. The project is led by the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, which received the \$35.6 million grant.

The first meeting for the grant will occur in March. Additional information is available on the Department of Public Health website.

Connecticut recently met with HHS and the agency is pleased with the speed at which Connecticut is moving on health care reform and the Exchange activity to date.

- c.** David Guttchen provided an update on the Exchange Establishment Grants.

The next round of funding for the Exchange is now available and Connecticut plans to apply in June for "level II" multi-year funding. This date was strategically selected to maximize current and future resources, as future funding is dependent on what has been previously accomplished. Funding is expected to be available 45 days after submission of the grant request.

4. Review and Discussion of Public/Stakeholder Outreach

- a.** Tia Cintron provided an overview of the stakeholder plan.

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Tia presented the two-pronged stakeholder plan that includes both public hearings and targeted stakeholder meetings. She explained that to enable thoughtful response and discussion during the stakeholder meetings, questions will be distributed in advance. The draft plan outline and questions are available on OPM's exchange website. Comments on the stakeholder plan are due to OPM by March 4.

b. The floor was opened to the Committee for feedback.

- Paul Lombardo commented that the questions are great. He suggested that receiving feedback prior to each stakeholder meeting could ensure that the group is prepared to answer detailed questions that may require research.
- Mary Ellen Breault indicated that CID has engaged local legislators to help set up meetings.
- Margaret Flinter asked if the RFP requires vendors to participate in the stakeholder plan (they are not required to) and suggested that there may be a role for the vendor in providing detailed information at the stakeholder meetings. She also asked the group not to forget Windham and Middlesex counties.
- Stan McMillan suggested that Eastern Connecticut State University has been used by DECD and is a great venue for public meetings. He also asked how the timing of the RFP would work with the timing of the public and stakeholder meetings. (There will be overlap.)
- Susan Tully Abdo suggested that the Exchange board of directors should reflect the expertise of insurers and actuaries.

c. The floor was opened to the public for feedback.

- Jason Martesa, of United HealthCare, asked when the draft document would be final. (Comments are due March 4.)
- David Grand, of Senator Williams' office, asked if the RFP was for IT. (It is not, it is for market analysis. The Innovator Grant is for the IT functions of the Exchange.)

5. Next steps/Next Meeting

a. Jeannette DeJesús provided an update on next steps.

The immediate goal is to finalize and implement the stakeholder plan. Feedback on the draft plan will be accepted until March 4. The Planning Committee is expected to meet again in late April.

Jeannette reinforced that although much work has already gone into planning and discussion of health care reform in Connecticut, the Planning Grant that this Committee is advising has a very specific task – to explore the impact of the Exchange on specific groups and sectors. This step is required by the federal government.

Jeannette indicated that to foster inclusiveness, additional members may be added to the Planning Committee. Members with specific expertise may be added with each phase of work depending on the specific knowledge and skills required.

Jeannette closed by reaffirming that the goal is to work quickly and inclusively, and that the Committee's help will be critical to success.